

Restriction Response

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, comprising Claims 1-14 with traverse. Applicants reserve the right to pursue nonelected claims in a divisional application claiming priority to the filing date of this application. The Examiner states that Group I, claims 1-14, is “drawn to a method for manufacturing a leaf spring or system for manufacturing a leaf spring,” while Group II, claim 15, is “drawn to a leaf spring.”

The Examiner claims that these groups are distinct because the product as claimed in Groups I and II are “related as method or system of making (system) and product made” and “the method can be used to make non-leaf spring devices and the leaf spring can be made by different steps.”

The applicant respectfully disagrees. It is possible to search the claims of Groups I and II of the present invention together due to the fact that the claimed product cannot be produced by a materially different method and the method claimed cannot be used to make other and materially different product. In order to produce a product that is configured as claimed in claim 15, the method as claimed in claims 1-14 would be used because the invention as claimed necessarily requires a braided fiber tube structure and a resin material to form a leaf spring. Put another way, the claimed method of manufacturing a traverse leaf spring of claims 1 – 14 will produce the claimed composite transverse leaf spring of claim 15. Additionally, the product claim 15 would result from the use of the method claimed in claims 1-14. Thus, a method that is materially different would not result in the same product as claimed and the product as claimed cannot be made by a materially different method.

Therefore, Applicants request that the restriction requirement be rescinded and that Groups I and II encompassing claims 1-15 be considered in this application. Questions regarding this response can be directed to Mark D. Weis at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Weis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Dated: October 8, 2003

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